

Message Text

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TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: RERF BUDGET

1. HENOCH REQUESTED TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
DR. JAMES L. LIVERMAN, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY, ERDA, TO DR. TERUHIKO SABURI,
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH BUREAU, MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE, 1-2-2 KASUMIGASEKI CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO.

QUOTE

DEAR DR. SABURI:

WE HAVE REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE BUDGET OF THE
RADIATION EFFECTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION (RERF), AND WE FIND
AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM WHICH NEEDS RESOLUTION AT AN EARLY
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STAGE, BEFORE IT BECOMES SO SERIOUS AS TO THREATEN THE
FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM. THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE
FACT THAT THE BUDGET NOW BEING REVIEWED BY THE MINISTRY
OF FINANCE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE RERF BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OR BY THE U.S. ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION, AND THIS IS CONTRARY BOTH TO THE FORM AND

SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

TO RECAPITULATE QUICKLY, AT THE JUNE 1976 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RERF PRESENTED A PROJECTED BUDGET FOR FY 1977 IN THE AMOUNT OF (1000 YEN) 3,009,338. THE U.S. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, I AM TOLD, EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT BUT DID EMPHASIZE THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD NO WAY TO JUDGE THE BUDGET REQUEST IN THE ABSENCE OF A PROGRAM BUDGET THAT RELATED COSTS TO SPECIFIC PROGRAM ELEMENTS. THEY REQUESTED A PROGRAM BUDGET, IN STRONG TERMS.

SUBSEQUENTLY, IN SEPTEMBER, A PROGRAM BUDGET WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY RERF. THIS WAS VERY WELL DONE, AND WE GREATLY APPRECIATED HAVING IT. WE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE REQUEST HAD CHANGED SOMEWHAT TO (1000 YEN) 3,033,736. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDED AN EXTRA YEN60,000,000 FOR LOW DOSE STUDIES, AND DELETED YEN 35,602,000 FROM THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT BUDGET, AND WAS PRESENTED TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY COPIES WERE SENT TO THE NAS AND ERDA.

WE FIND NOW THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE HAS SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE A BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF (1000 YEN) 2,989,746, A DECREASE OF YEN 43,990,000. ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL AMOUNT WAS REDUCED, SOME ELEMENTS OF THE BUDGET WERE INCREASED, SUCH AS PERSONNEL, AND FEES AND GRATUITIES, WHILE OTHERS WERE REDUCED,
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SUCH AS TRAVEL, AND, NOTABLY, THE VISITING SCIENTISTS AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. THERE WAS NO CONSULTATION WITH NAS OR ERDA REGARDING THESE CHANGES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, IN TURN, MAY WELL IMPOSE FURTHER BUDGET CUTS.

WHAT TROUBLES ME IS THAT, AS THE PROCESS IS WORKING, THE U.S. SIDE HAS HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN THE BUDGET-MAKING PROCESS. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. IS REPRESENTED EQUALLY ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES (THROUGH ERDA) PROVIDES 50 PERCENT OF THE RERF BUDGET, THE BUDGET AS FINALLY PRESENTED TO THE DIET BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WILL REFLECT CHANGES, IMPOSED UNILATERALLY, BOTH UPWARDS AND DOWNWARDS FROM THAT REVIEWED BY THE BOARD.

THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION CANNOT AGREE TO SUCH A ONE-SIDED BUDGET-MAKING PROCESS. THE

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES IMPOSED BY THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE ARE NOT CLEAR TO US, AND
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT FURTHER CHANGES WILL BE MADE BY THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IT WILL BE NECESSARY, AT THE

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TO EXAMINE
IN SOME DETAIL THE PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS OF ALL OF THE
CHANGES THAT WILL, BY THEN, HAVE BEEN MADE, AND IT WILL
NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE ASSURANCE CONCERNING ANY
OVERALL FUNDING LEVEL IN ADVANCE OF SUCH REVIEW.

I REGRET THAT WE HAVE GOTTEN INTO SUCH A DIFFICULT
SITUATION OVER THE BUDGET FOR RERF. I AM SURE, HOWEVER,
THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT ERDA MUST ACCOUNT TO THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROPER EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ACCORDING
TO PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AS SPECIFIED BY THE PRESIDENT AND
CONGRESS. I UNDERSTAND THAT WITH RESPECT TO A BI-
NATIONALLY SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION SUCH AS RERF EACH SIDE
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MUST SHOW FLEXIBILITY, WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND
COMPROMISE PRIOR TO MAKING PROGRAM OR BUDGETING
DECISIONS, AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARTICULAR PRO-
BLEMS THAT THE OTHER SIDE FACES. THIS CAN BE
ACCOMPLISHED, HOWEVER, ONLY IF EACH SIDE CONSULTS WITH
THE OTHER REGARDING CHANGES TO BE MADE, AND REFRAINS
FROM TAKING UNILATERAL ACTIONS.

I TRUST THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND SOME SATISFACTORY
SOLUTION TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF THE FY 1977
BUDGET. FURTHERMORE, IT IS OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE
THAT WE FIND SOME BETTER WAY TO ARRANGE MATTERS IN THE
FUTURE. I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT
YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE FOR A FEASIBLE WAY, FROM YOUR POINT
OF VIEW, TO OBTAIN A COORDINATED REVIEW OF THE BUDGET
FOR FY 1978.

SINCERELY,

JAMES L. LIVERMAN
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

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